MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
MARVEL COMICS
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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ NIGHTCRAWLER 1

MALE BONDING
Part 1 of 8
"IN THE CENTER RING..."

Nightcrawler returns to his old haunts in the small German village of Winzeldorf, where he finds that some hauntings have already begun...

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler — GENE COLAN
Inker – AL WILLIAMSON
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

YOUNG GODS 9

AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
Part 1 of 9
"THE GODS RETURN"

The Young Gods--12 human beings chosen by the pantheon of Earth's gods to represent the 12 great achievements of man--embark on a mission that could determine the fate of all mankind!

Writer — GERRY CONWAY
Artist — TOM SUTTON
Letterer — PHIL FELIX
Colorist — TOM SMITH

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Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

Wild Frontier' is off to a great start! Sorry I didn't write to last issue also. Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #94:

1) Wolverine. The time, setting and great characterization in Tim Truman's script were just part of what made 'Wild Frontier' fantastic. I've never seen Tim do a Marvel job before, and it's just great now. The art, too, is outstanding. Todd Foxx's pencils are clear and vivid, while Gary's inks helped refine the piece. I've always liked Kwapisz (from the critically-acclaimed Hawkworld series—coincidentally written by Truman) and his work is always at a high standard. Keep up the rip-roarin' 1840s work, cowboy! Overall grade: A+

2) Nova. Progressing nicely, I think. Susan Kennedy's script is okay, working along a neat plotline. It's also (thankfully) being accompanied by Gavin and Ian's art, which is very well done. Pat Garrahy's colors were nice, too. I give Galactus' herald a universe-spanning A.

3) Ghost Rider/Cable. Still interesting. The story hasn't slacked off yet, so I'm glad to be reading it every two weeks. Howard Mackie's script kept me enthralled, so I'd like to see him return soon...after that 100th issue spectacular with, ah, I guess I'd better wait to see it before I say anything else. Overall grade: B+

4) Thing. Good. This is the kind of one-shot I'd like to see more often. It was based on a simple story, not too crammed, and had good dialogue and art. It also featured one of my favorite characters. How can you beat that? Ya get an A.

5) Ghosty Cover. Monstrous. A.

6) Wolvie Cover. Um... er... how, er... lovely. A-. Keep it up, Sam!

Joey Marchese
116 Emerald Place
Clark, NJ 07066

Dear Terry,

For the second time in a row, I liked all four features in MCP. Issue #94 was an issue without outstanding art, but the stories were worth a million!

Wolverine: 1840?? Sure, Wolverine could be very old, but this is 150 years ago! What's next? A Wolverine saga that takes place in the middle ages? Well, this story looks promising, but it's kind of confusing... 2 1/2 Claws.

Nova: Oh dear! The super-powered herald of Galactus, eater of worlds, showing her more human side—showing remorse! I must say this story has lots of potential! So far, the two chapters have been pretty good. Again, the art wasn't spectacular, but I still enjoy this saga. 3 Claws.

Ghost Rider/Cable: Looks like this tale doesn't have that much of a real story, but who cares? I like seeing some straightforward action. Ghosty and Cable are a heckuva team. 3 Claws!

Thing: Now this is what one-parters should look like! Although I never heard of John Figueroa, he can sure do funny stories! Thing is my favorite non-mutant super hero, and in this tale, he was at his best. Ron Wilson's art sometimes looks promising, but he fails to give it the finishing touch. Keep working, Ron. 3 Claws!

I'm glad the covers of this issue were done by Sam Kieth—so I could still see some fabulous art. Both covers deserve a fistful of claws (that's three, for you non mathematicians)!

Olav Breemer
Brugakker 36 06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherland, Europe

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW PAINFUL THIS MUST BE FOR THE KID.
THE GREASEPAINT.
THE SPOTLIGHT.
THE HUSH OF THE CROWD.
IN THE CENTER RING...
MALE BONDING
PART 1
PAINFUL--IN A COMFORTIN' SORT OF WAY.
starring
WOLVERINE
and
NIGHTCRAWLER

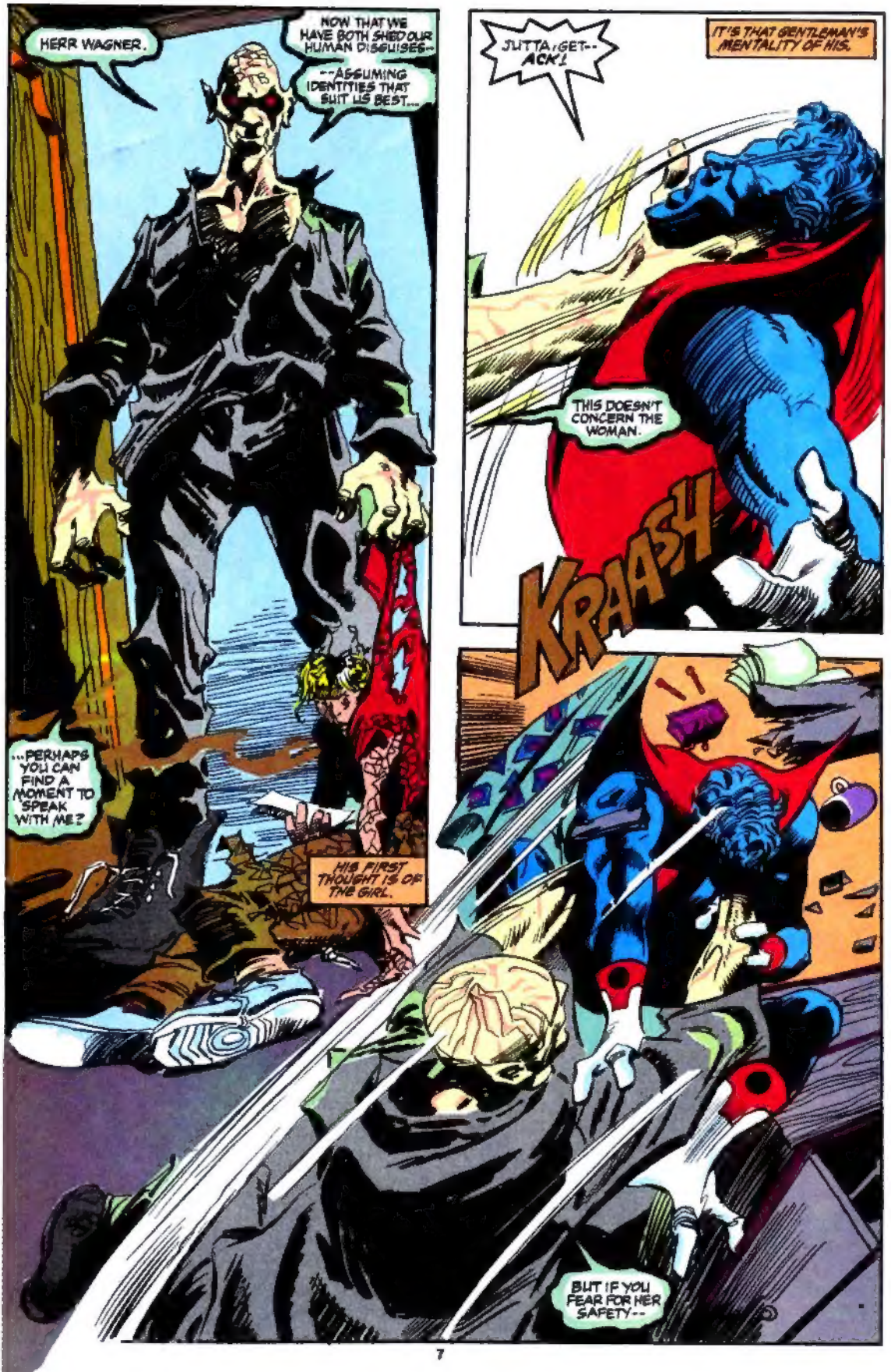
LAST TIME KURT WAGNER WAS UNDER A BIG TOP--
--TOURIN' HIS WAY ACROSS GERMANY...
...HE WAS THE STAR ATTRACTION OF THIS TRAVELLIN' CARNIVAL.

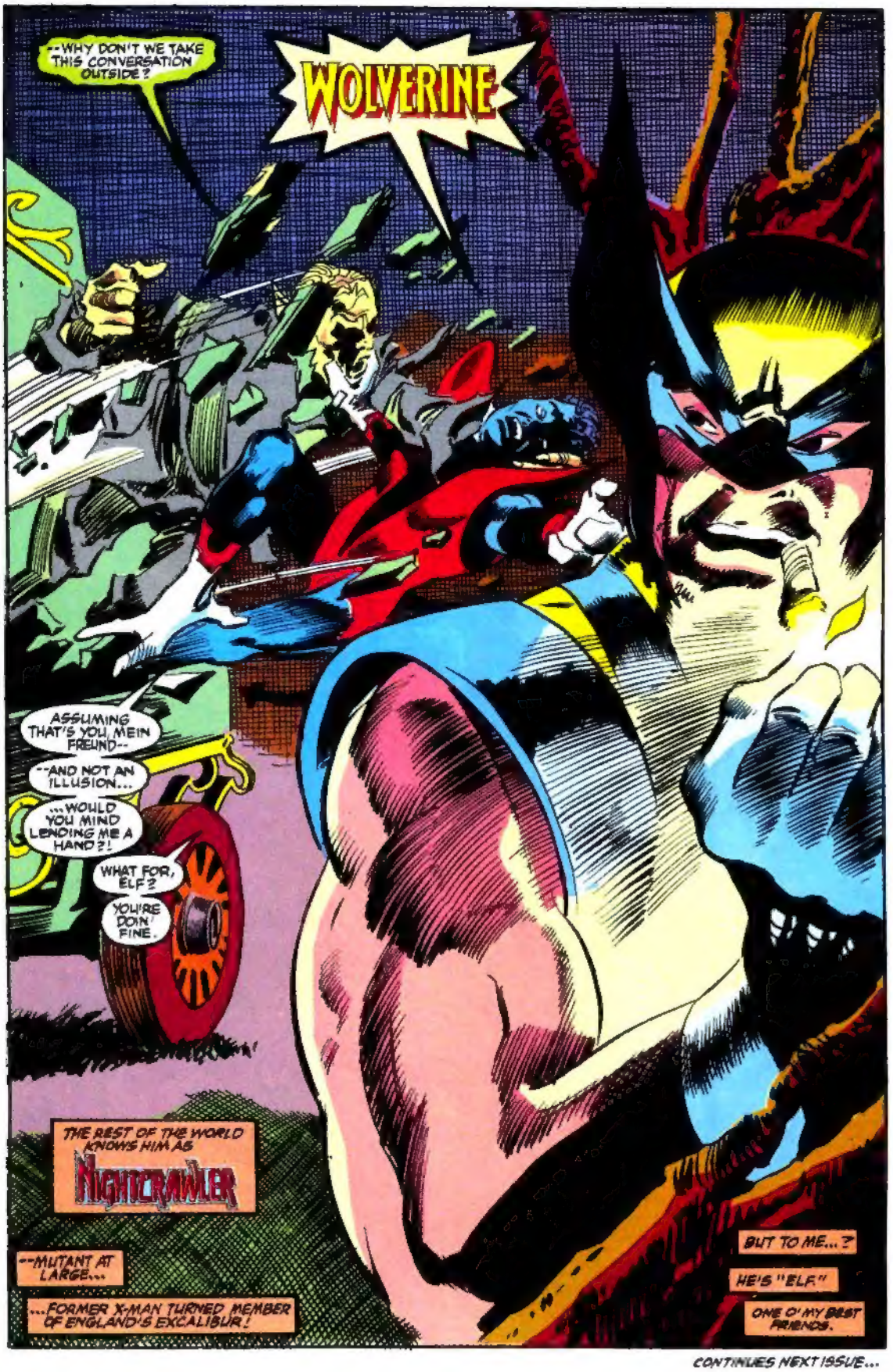
HE COULD'A PACKED 'EM IN AT THE SIDESHOW PLAYIN' A FREAK...
'CEPT HE HAD TOO MUCH SELF-RESPECT.
'STEAD, HE WAS EUROPE'S PREMIERE HIGH WIRE ACT--
--A DEATH-DEFYIN' GYMNAST...
...AND A HAM.
THAT MUCH HASN'T CHANGED.

YOU SAY "HE'S TOO GOOD TO BE REAL!"
BAMF
PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT!
AMAZING!
MORE! MORE!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
THEIR APPLAUSE RINGS HOLLOW IN MY EARS!
HOW DIFFERENT ARE THEIR CRIES AND CHEERS--
--FROM THE SCREAMS AND THREATS THEY SHOUTED WHEN LAST WE MET.*
AT THE TIME, THESE PEOPLE OF WINZELDORF THOUGHT ME A MONSTER--
--A SLAYER OF CHILDREN.
A PAIR OF MITTENS--A DAB OF MAKEUP--AND I AM HARMLESS--A CLOWN.
NO LONGER A DEMON, BUT STILL SOMETHING LESS THAN A MAN.

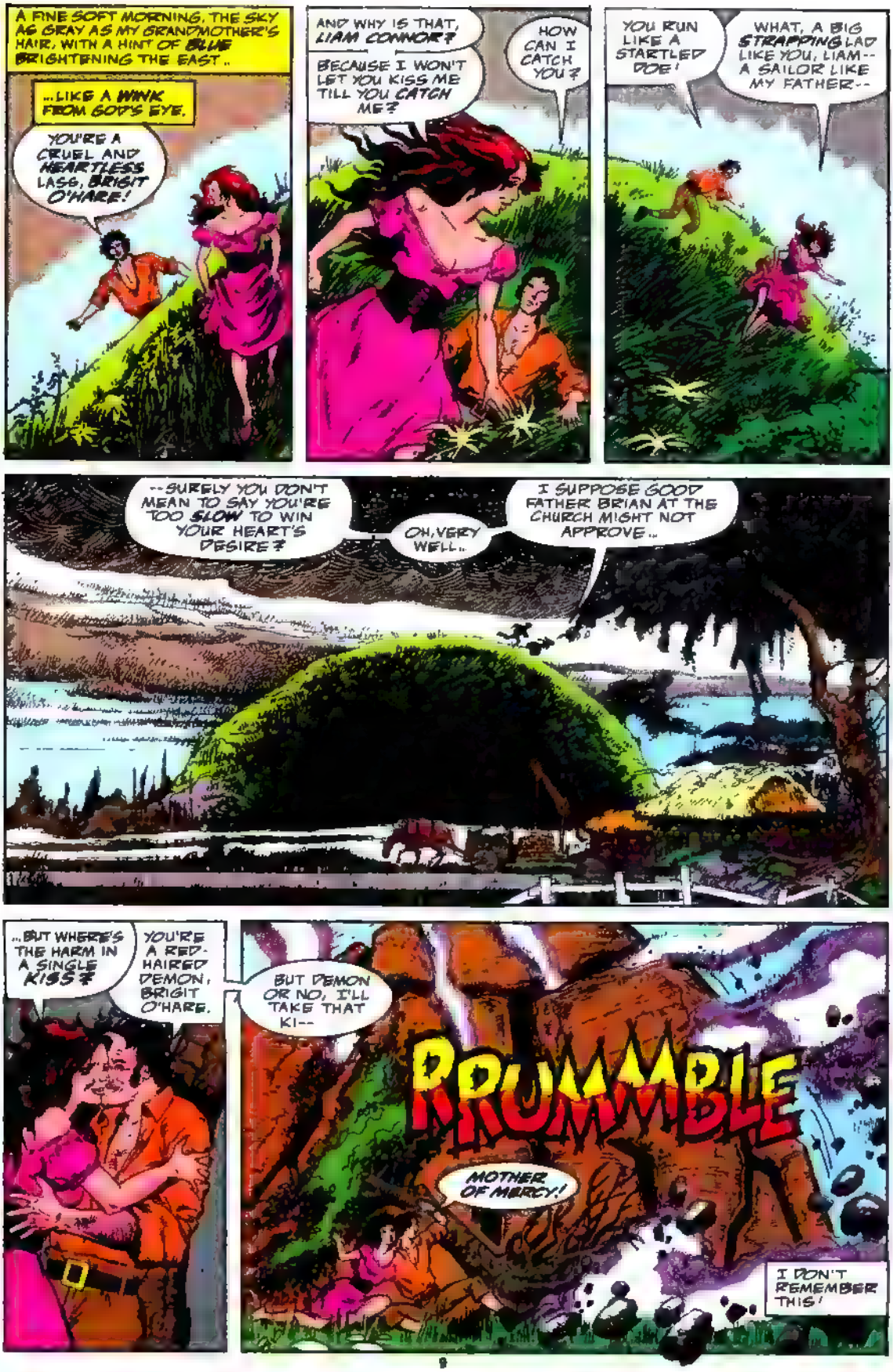
SHOW'S OVER, BLUE!
THWAAP
VAS?!
'MEMBER THE FIRST RULE OF SHOW BIZ-- "ALWAYS LEAVE THEM WANTING MORE."
I THOUGHT IT WAS "ALWAYS BRING YOUR WALLET ON STAGE WITH YOU."
LET'S GET YOU BACK INTO YOUR WAGON BEFORE--
HERR INDIGO!
PLEASE, SIR--I AM YOUR BIGGEST FAN!
MUSTN'T LET HIM SEE ME WITHOUT MY DISGUISE.
I AM SORRY, CHILD...
...PERHAPS ANOTHER TIME.
JUTTA, THAT BOY...?
RELAX, BLUE; HE'S YOUNG.
HE'LL GET OVER IT.

AGHHH!
FREEDOM AT LAST!
OVER-REACTING JUST A TAD, NO?
IT'S ONLY A COSTUME...
...HOW IS IT ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE YOU USED TO WEAR--
--WHICH LATER BECAME YOUR X-MAN UNIFORM?
RRIP
BECAUSE I NEVER HID BEHIND THESE CLOTHES.
THEY HELPED REMIND ME OF WHAT I AM--
--WHERE I HAVE COME FROM.
SORT OF "LOCAL POINTY-TAILED BLUE-BOY MAKES GOOD"?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING--
DOING WELL ENOUGH, AT LEAST, THAT MY OLD FRIENDS WOULD CALL UPON ME IN THEIR DARKEST HOUR.
YOU KNOW WE ALL APPRECIATE YOU TAKING TIME AWAY FROM EXCALIBUR TO INVESTIGATE THE STRANGE OCCUR--
RUMP RUMP
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, JUTTA.
IT MUST BE THE OTHERS COMING TO VOICE THEIR OWN FEARS.
WE MIGHT AS WELL DISCUSS THESE MYSTERIES...
...ALL AT--
--ONCE?


HERR WAGNER.
NOW THAT WE HAVE BOTH SHED OUR HUMAN DISGUISES--
--ASSUMING IDENTITIES THAT SUIT US BEST...
...PERHAPS YOU CAN FIND A MOMENT TO SPEAK WITH ME?
HIS FIRST THOUGHT IS OF THE GIRL.
JUTTA, GET--
ACK!
IT'S THAT GENTLEMAN'S MENTALITY OF HIS.
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN THE WOMAN.
KRAASH
BUT IF YOU FEAR FOR HER SAFETY--


--WHY DON'T WE TAKE THIS CONVERSATION OUTSIDE?
WOLVERINE
ASSUMING THAT'S YOU, MEIN FREUND--
--AND NOT AN ILLUSION...
...WOULD YOU MIND LENDING ME A HAND?!
WHAT FOR, ELF?
YOU'RE DOIN' FINE.
THE REST OF THE WORLD KNOWS HIM AS NIGHTCRAWLER
--MUTANT AT LARGE...
...FORMER X-MAN TURNED MEMBER OF ENGLAND'S EXCALIBUR!
BUT TO ME...?
HE'S "ELF."
ONE O' MY BEST FRIENDS.

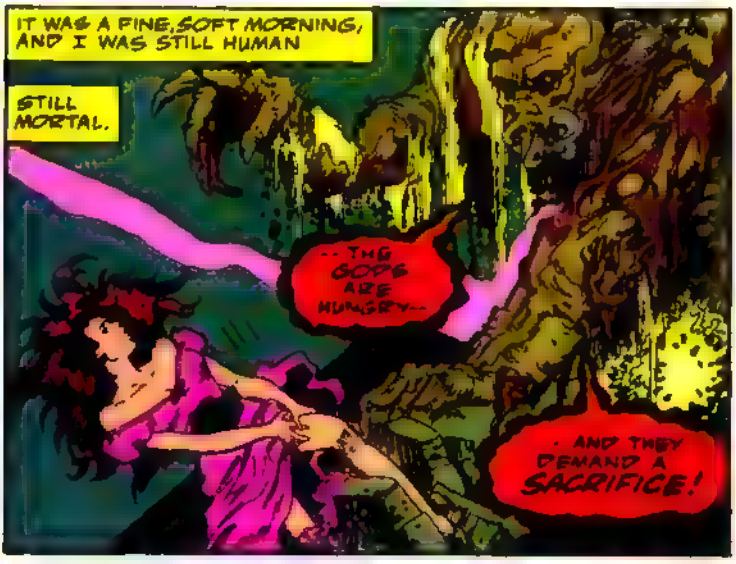
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...


A FINE SOFT MORNING, THE SKY AS GRAY AS MY GRANDMOTHER'S HAIR, WITH A HINT OF BLUE BRIGHTENING THE EAST..
...LIKE A WINK FROM GOD'S EYE.
YOU'RE A CRUEL AND HEARTLESS LASS, BRIGIT O'HARE!
AND WHY IS THAT, LIAM CONNOR?
BECAUSE I WON'T LET YOU KISS ME TILL YOU CATCH ME?
HOW CAN I CATCH YOU?
YOU RUN LIKE A STARTLED DOE!
WHAT, A BIG STRAPPING LAD LIKE YOU, LIAM-- A SAILOR LIKE MY FATHER--
--SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN TO SAY YOU'RE TOO SLOW TO WIN YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?
OH, VERY WELL..
I SUPPOSE GOOD FATHER BRIAN AT THE CHURCH MIGHT NOT APPROVE..
...BUT WHERE'S THE HARM IN A SINGLE KISS?
YOU'RE A RED-HAIRED DEMON, BRIGIT O'HARE.
BUT DEMON OR NO, I'LL TAKE THAT KI--
RRUMMBLE
MOTHER OF MERCY!
I DON'T REMEMBER THIS!

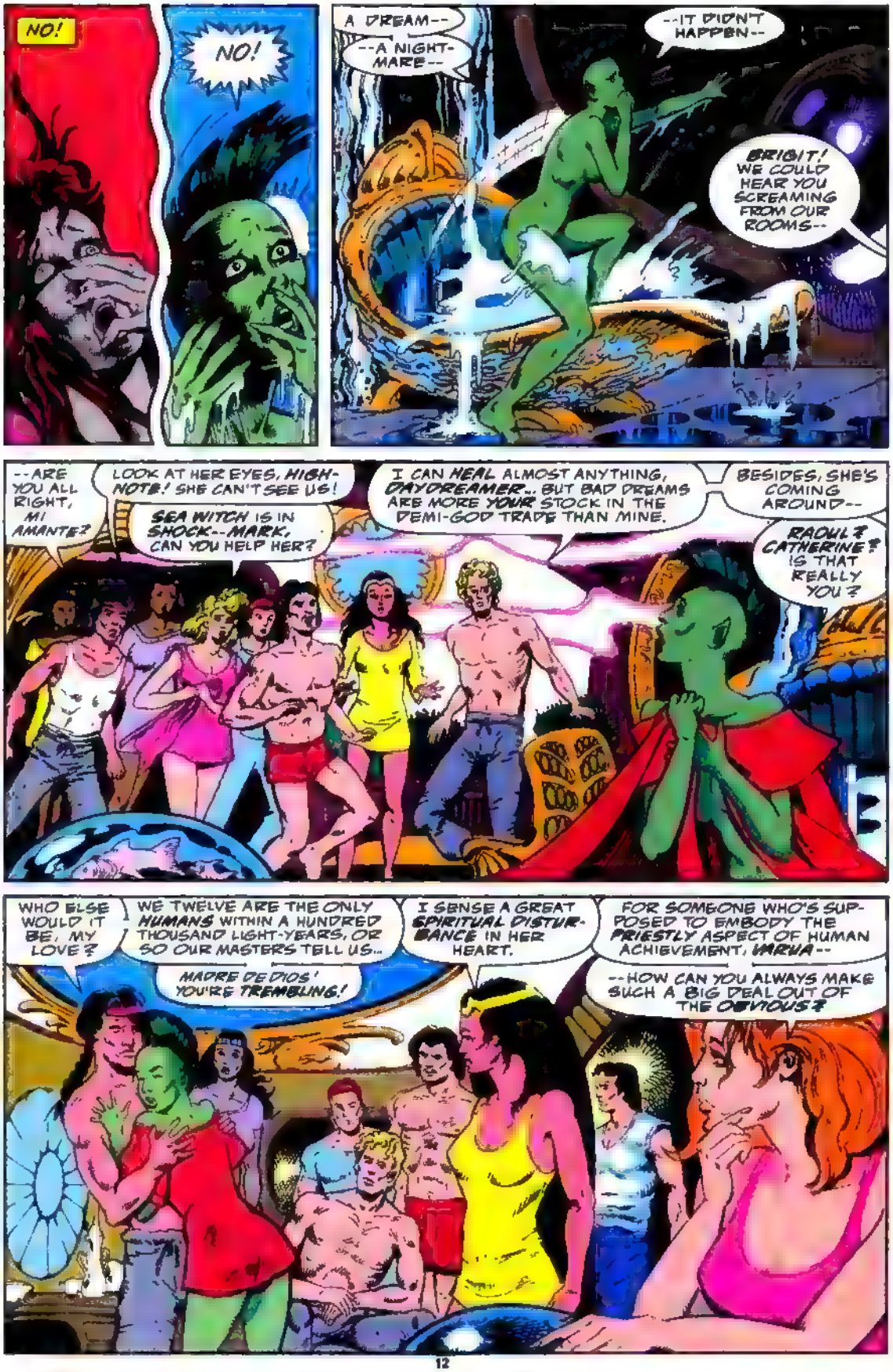
THIS ISN'T WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING--?
THE GODS OF ANCIENT TIMES W... NOT BE DEFEATED EASILY OR EASILY O'ERTHROWN!
THE HOUR AND DAY DRAWS NEAR!
BEWARE! PREPARE!
THE YOUNG GODS
IN
AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
PART 1
"THE GODS RETURN"

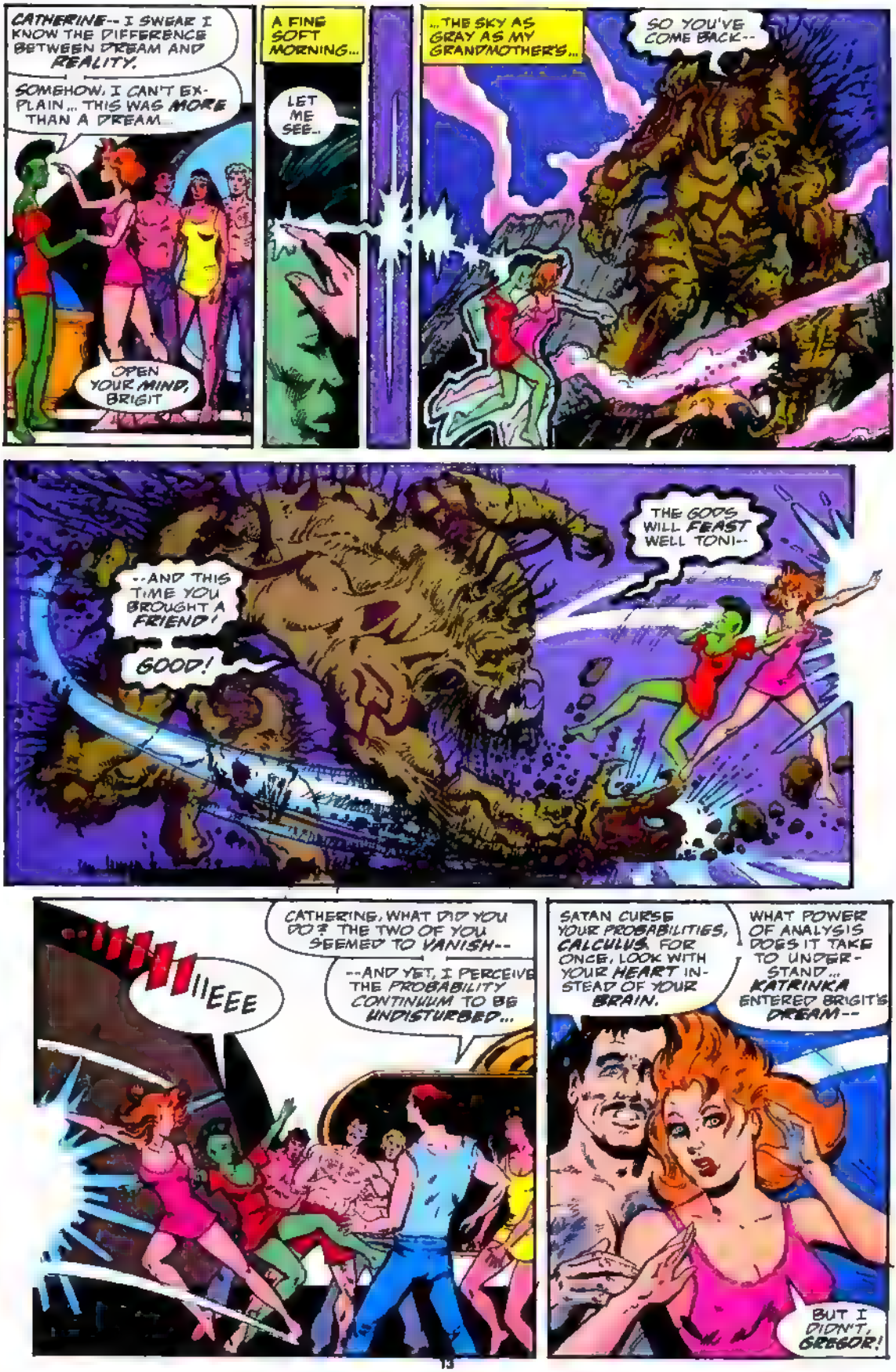
THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN!
THERE WAS NO MOUND IN THE HEATHER...
THE GODS ARE JEALOUS--

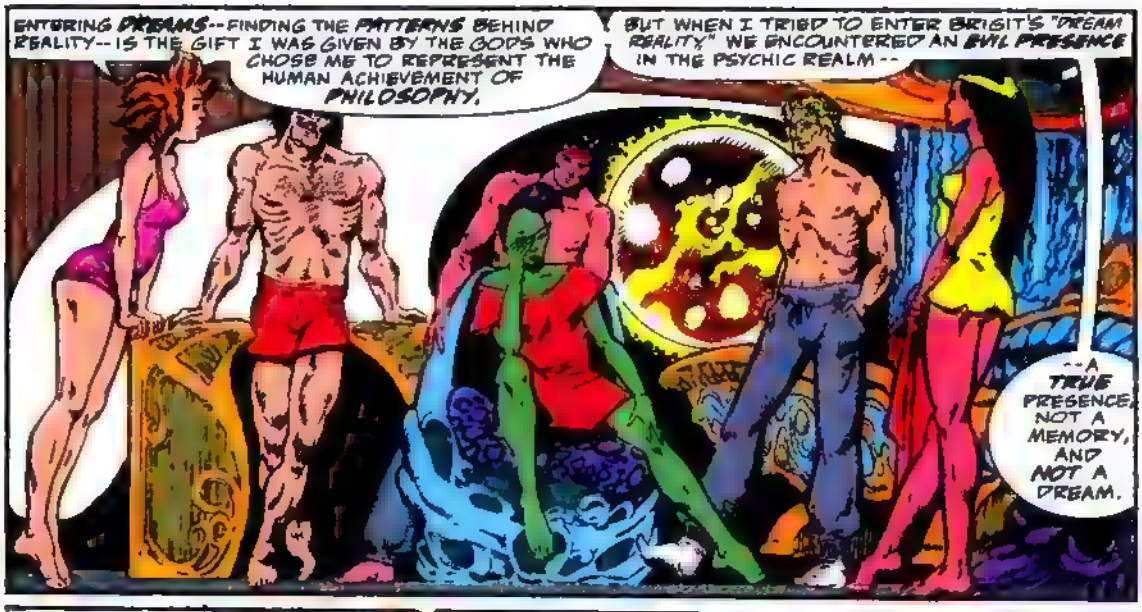
...NO ANCIENT CELTIC BURIAL DOME THAT BROKE APART, BIRTHING MONSTERS.
--AND MORE THAN JEALOUS--

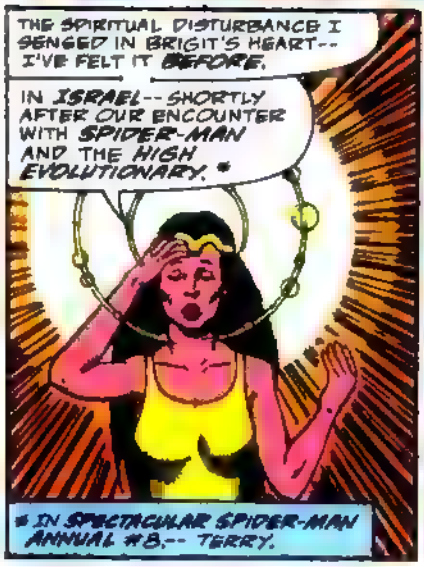

IT WAS A FINE, SOFT MORNING, AND I WAS STILL HUMAN
STILL MORTAL.
--THE GODS ARE HUNGRY--
--AND THEY DEMAND A SACRIFICE!

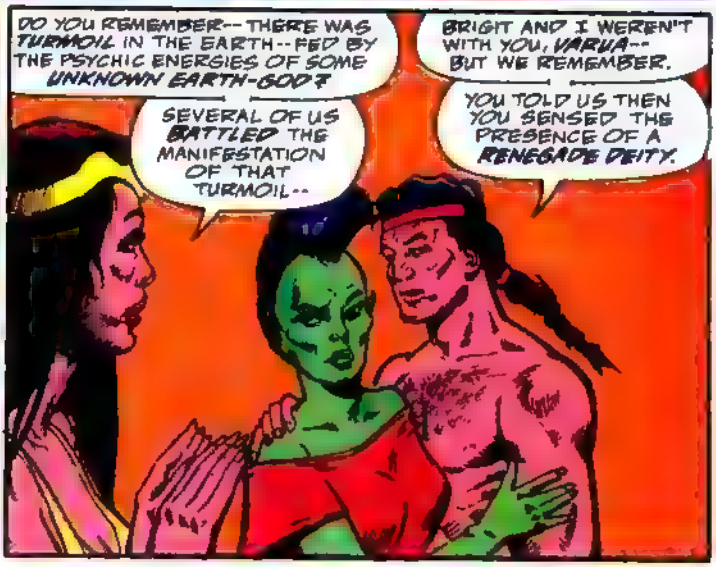
I DON'T REMEMBER THIS!
NO!
NO!

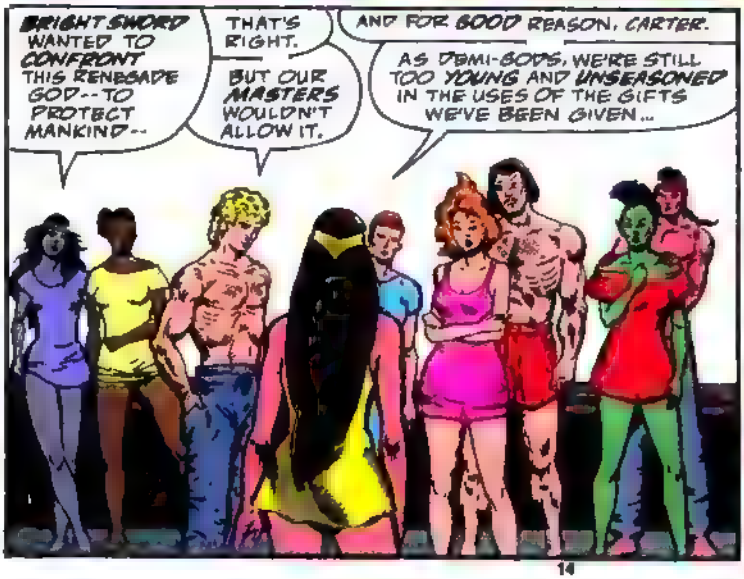

NO!
NO!
A DREAM--
--A NIGHT-MARE--
--IT DIDN'T HAPPEN--
BRIGIT! WE COULD HEAR YOU SCREAMING FROM OUR ROOMS--
--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MI AMANTE?
LOOK AT HER EYES, HIGH-NOTE! SHE CAN'T SEE US!
SEA WITCH IS IN SHOCK--MARK, CAN YOU HELP HER?
I CAN HEAL ALMOST ANYTHING, DAYDREAMER.. BUT BAD DREAMS ARE MORE YOUR STOCK IN THE DEMI-GOD TRADE THAN MINE.
BESIDES, SHE'S COMING AROUND--
RAOUL? CATHERINE? IS THAT REALLY YOU?
WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE, MY LOVE?
WE TWELVE ARE THE ONLY HUMANS WITHIN A HUNDRED THOUSAND LIGHT-YEARS, OR SO OUR MASTERS TELL US..
MADRE DE DIOS! YOU'RE TREMBLING!
I SENSE A GREAT SPIRITUAL DISTURBANCE IN HER HEART.
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO EMBODY THE PRIESTLY ASPECT OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT, IMRUA--
--HOW CAN YOU ALWAYS MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF THE OBVIOUS?


CATHERINE-- I SWEAR I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY.
SOMEHOW, I CAN'T EXPLAIN... THIS WAS MORE THAN A DREAM...
OPEN YOUR MIND, BRIGIT
A FINE SOFT MORNING...
LET ME SEE..
...THE SKY AS GRAY AS MY GRANDMOTHER'S...
SO YOU'VE COME BACK--
--AND THIS TIME YOU BROUGHT A FRIEND!
GOOD!
THE GODS WILL FEAST WELL TONI--
IIEEE
CATHERINE, WHAT DID YOU DO? THE TWO OF YOU SEEMED TO VANISH--
--AND YET, I PERCEIVE THE PROBABILITY CONTINUUM TO BE UNDISTURBED...
SATAN CURSE YOUR PROBABILITIES, CALCULUS. FOR ONCE, LOOK WITH YOUR HEART INSTEAD OF YOUR BRAIN.
WHAT POWER OF ANALYSIS DOES IT TAKE TO UNDERSTAND... KATRINKA ENTERED BRIGIT'S DREAM--
BUT I DIDN'T, GREGOR!


ENTERING DREAMS--FINDING THE PATTERNS BEHIND REALITY--IS THE GIFT I WAS GIVEN BY THE GODS WHO CHOSE ME TO REPRESENT THE HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY.
BUT WHEN I TRIED TO ENTER BRIGIT'S "DREAM REALITY" WE ENCOUNTERED AN EVIL PRESENCE IN THE PSYCHIC REALM--
--A TRUE PRESENCE, NOT A MEMORY, AND NOT A DREAM.

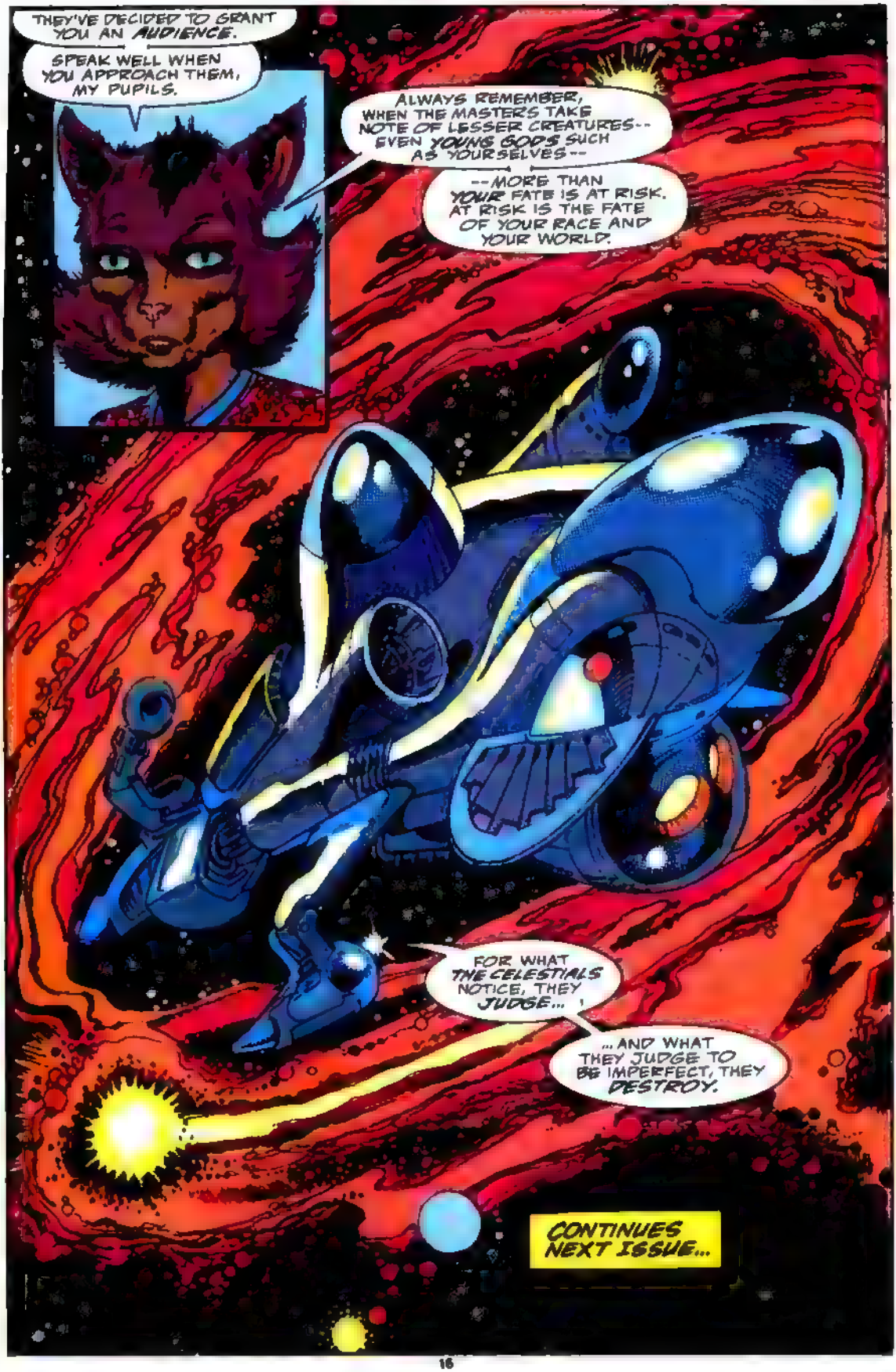

THE SPIRITUAL DISTURBANCE I SENSED IN BRIGIT'S HEART--I'VE FELT IT BEFORE.
IN ISRAEL--SHORTLY AFTER OUR ENCOUNTER WITH SPIDER-MAN AND THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY. *
* IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8.-- TERRY.


DO YOU REMEMBER--THERE WAS TURMOIL IN THE EARTH--FED BY THE PSYCHIC ENERGIES OF SOME UNKNOWN EARTH-GOD?
SEVERAL OF US BATTLED THE MANIFESTATION OF THAT TURMOIL--
BRIGIT AND I WEREN'T WITH YOU, VARUA--BUT WE REMEMBER.
YOU TOLD US THEN YOU SENSED THE PRESENCE OF A RENEGADE DEITY.


BRIGHT SWORD WANTED TO CONFRONT THIS RENEGADE GOD--TO PROTECT MANKIND--
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT OUR MASTERS WOULDN'T ALLOW IT.
AND FOR GOOD REASON, CARTER.
AS DEMI-GODS, WE'RE STILL TOO YOUNG AND UNSEASONED IN THE USES OF THE GIFTS WE'VE BEEN GIVEN...

SAVE THE LECTURE, VARUA. WE'VE HEARD IT BEFORE FROM OUR TEACHERS.
ACCORDING TO JUNIPER AND KATOS, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE THE POWER--
--WE'RE STILL TOO HUMAN TO ACT LIKE PROPER GODS.

BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING HUMAN?
THE MANY GODS OF EARTH CHOSE US TO REPRESENT HUMANKIND AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.
HOW CAN WE DO THAT IF WE REJECT OUR HUMANITY?
IF THERE'S A RENEGADE DEITY ON EARTH--WHOSE PRESENCE IS SO STRONG IT'S AFFECTING BRIGIT'S DREAMS--
--I SAY WE TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE RACE THAT GAVE US BIRTH.
AND IF THAT MEANS DISOBEYING THE MASTERS, THEN--
ALWAYS THE FIREBRAND, EH, BRIGHT SWORD?
MY PUPILS ARE TAUGHT TO BE BOLD, KATOS.
THOUGH, I ADMIT, I NEVER TAUGHT BRIGHT SWORD TO ADVOCATE OUTRIGHT REBELLION AGAINST THE MASTERS' WILL.
NONETHELESS, REBELLION IS WHAT HE ADVOCATES, JUNIPER.
FORTUNATELY, SUCH AN INSURRECTION MAY YET PROVE UNNECESSARY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KATOS?
HAVE THE MASTERS AGREED TO LET US RETURN HOME AT LAST?
THE MASTERS ARE AWARE OF ALL THAT TRANSPIRES ABOARD THE MOTHERSHIP, NIGHNOTE.
THEY KNOW OF BRIGIT'S DREAM--INDEED, THEY INFORMED US--AND THAT'S WHY KATOS AND I ARE HERE.


THEY'VE DECIDED TO GRANT YOU AN AUDIENCE.
SPEAK WELL WHEN YOU APPROACH THEM, MY PUPILS.
ALWAYS REMEMBER, WHEN THE MASTERS TAKE NOTE OF LESSER CREATURES-- EVEN YOUNG GODS SUCH AS YOURSELVES--
--MORE THAN YOUR FATE IS AT RISK. AT RISK IS THE FATE OF YOUR RACE AND YOUR WORLD.
FOR WHAT THE CELESTIALS NOTICE, THEY JUDGE...!
...AND WHAT THEY JUDGE TO BE IMPERFECT, THEY DESTROY.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS
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AND
GHOST RIDER
DR. STRANGE
TM
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$1.50 US
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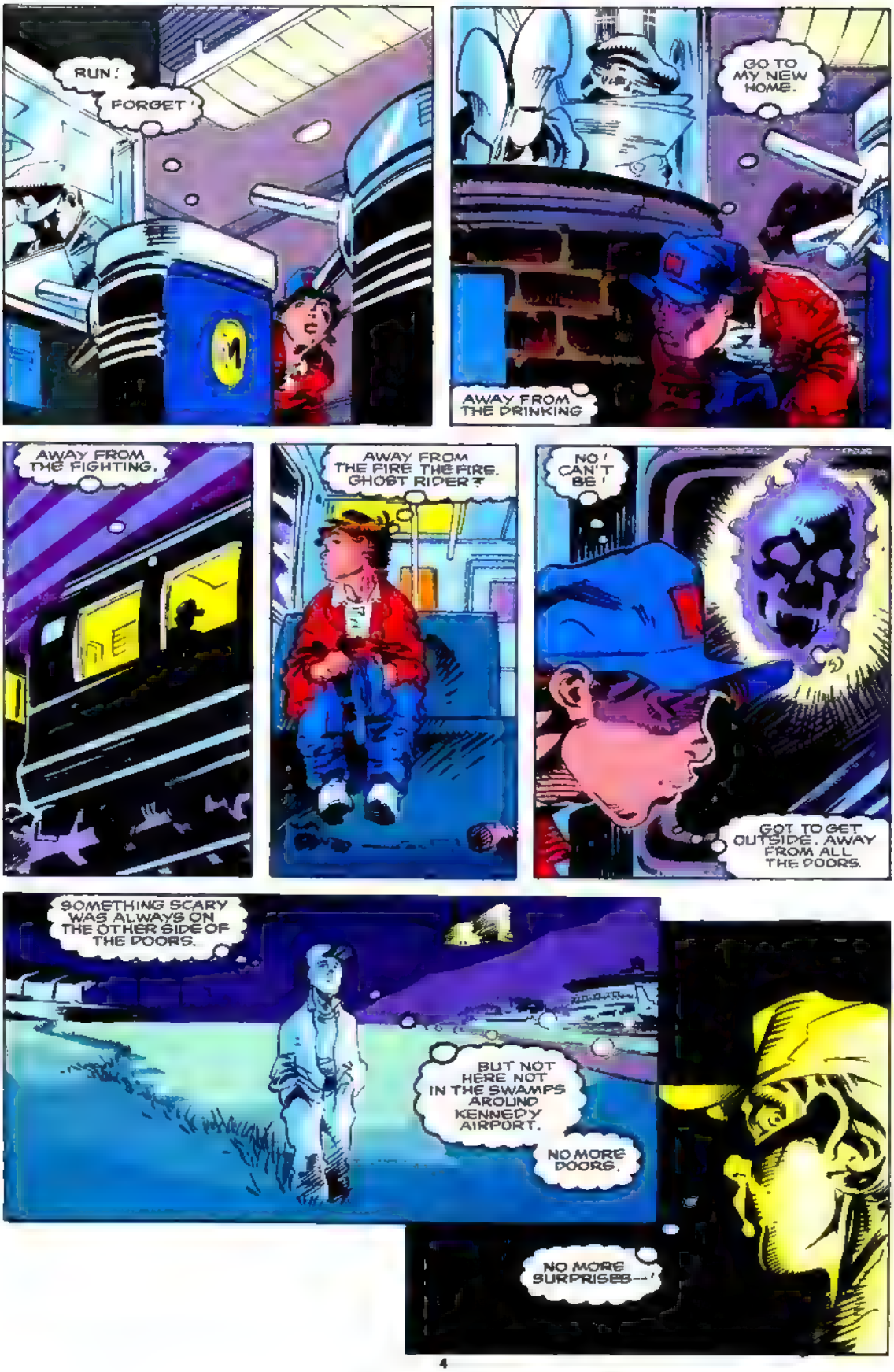
DOORWAY TO DARKNESS CHAPTER 1 OF 6
RUNNING
GHOST RIDER, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, RIDES HIS MYSTICAL MOTORCYCLE IN THE MIDST OF A STREET GANG.
THEIR INNOCENT VICTIM'S BLOOD STILL PULSES FROM HER BODY, STAINING THE BROOKLYN SIDEWALK
INNOCENT BLOOD.
GHOST RIDER
DR. STRANGE

IN RECENT MONTHS, SIMILAR SCENES HAVE BEEN PLAYED OUT, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, ON THE STREETS OF BROOKLYN.
FREQUENTLY, GHOST RIDER IS THERE TO AVENGE THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT.
TONIGHT, 10 YEAR OLD KEVIN MORAN OBSERVES WHAT MANY HAVE ONLY READ ABOUT.
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME KEVIN HAS SEEN GHOST RIDER IN ACTION
HE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM EVER SINCE HE SAW HIS PICTURE IN THE PAPER
THREE TIMES HE'S FOUND HIM.
AND, AS ALWAYS, GHOST RIDER'S VENGEANCE IS SWIFT...
...AND OFTEN BRUTAL, BUT ALWAYS...
...WELL-DESERVED
OH, NO!
HE SEES ME!

GOT TO RUN!
I CAN RUN WITH THE BEST OF THEM
BEEN RUNNING ON THE STREETS FOR A YEAR.
I'M GOOD AT RUNNING.
RUNNING HELPS ME FORGET!
FORGET THAT NIGHT.
THE DOOR.
MOMMY!
DADDY!
THE FIRE!
NOOOOOO!


RUN!
FORGET!
GO TO MY NEW HOME.
AWAY FROM THE DRINKING
AWAY FROM THE FIGHTING.
AWAY FROM THE FIRE THE FIRE. GHOST RIDER?
NO! CAN'T BE!
GOT TO GET OUTSIDE. AWAY FROM ALL THE DOORS.
SOMETHING SCARY WAS ALWAYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOORS.
BUT NOT HERE NOT IN THE SWAMPS AROUND KENNEDY AIRPORT.
NO MORE DOORS.
NO MORE SURPRISES—!

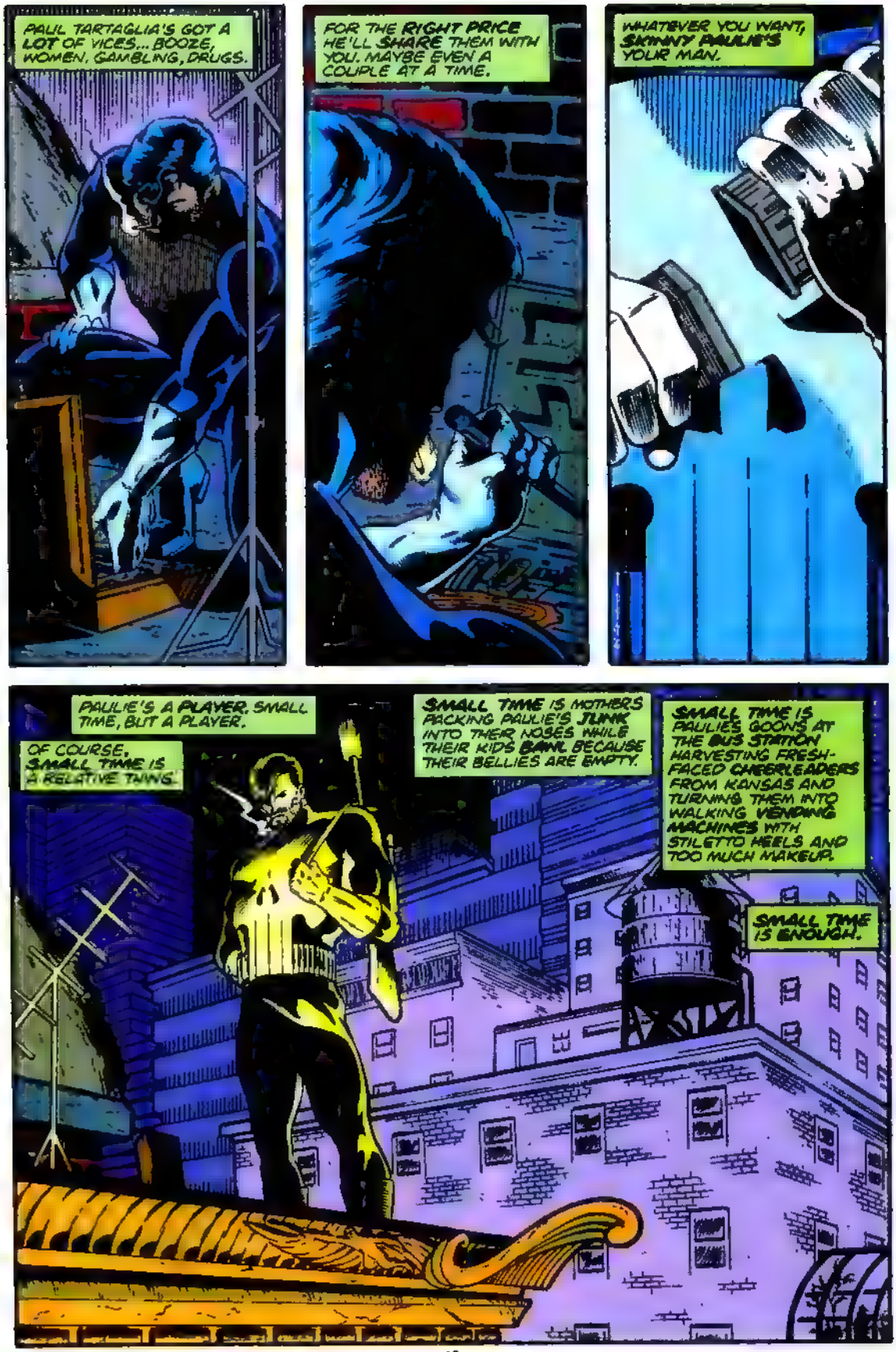
NO!
I HATE DOORS!
WHAT IS IT DOING HERE?
NO DOORS!
HEY, KID, WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU AIN'T AFRAID OF NO DOORS, ARE YOU?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, KEV!
THERE'S LOTS OF RAD THINGS ON THE OTHER SIDE! GO ON! LOOK FOR YOURSELF!
NO, I DON'T.
GO ON!
NOOOO!

COME CLOSER, BOY.
W-WHO ARE YOU--?
NO!
GET AWAY! YOUR HEAD-- THAT FIRE!
YOUR HEAD!
BUT WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER--
--SON!
NO! YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER! YOU CAN'T BE! HE'S DEAD!

ARE YOU SO SURE?
COME, TALK TO ME. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
NO.
GOT TO RUN AGAIN!
RUN!
RUN!
COME BACK!
OOOF!
WHERE AM I NOW?
THIS HAS GOT TO BE ALL A DREAM!
THAT'S IT-- A NIGHTMARE! LIKE BEFORE!
ALL THESE DOORS..
IT'S OPENING
WHO NOW?

COME, BUY ENTER THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF -
DR. STRANGE
IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE!
YOU ARE LINKED TO A DISTURBANCE IN THE MYSTICAL REALMS.
AND I WOULD HAVE ANSWERS
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

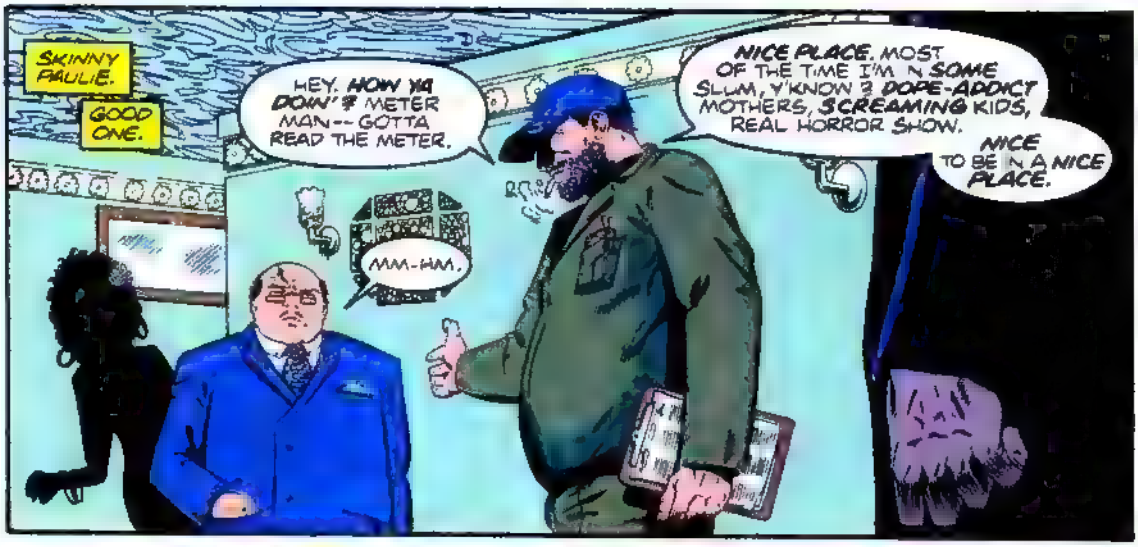
VICES
I KICKED THE HABIT IN NAM. BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
BUT YOU NEVER LOSE YOUR TASTE FOR THE THINGS YOU FORGET IT, BUT YOU NEVER LOSE IT. LIKE ANY VICE.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A MAN TO HAVE VICES.
THE PUNISHER

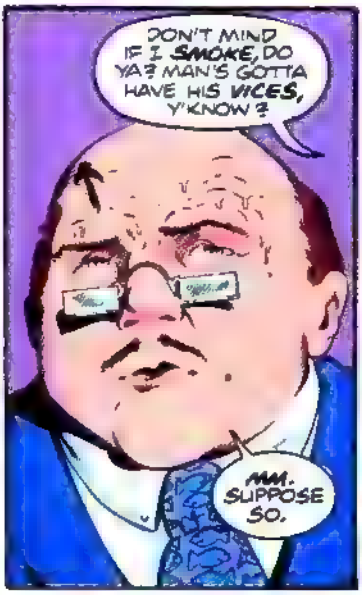

PAUL TARTAGLIA'S GOT A LOT OF VICES... BOOZE, WOMEN, GAMBLING, DRUGS.
FOR THE RIGHT PRICE HE'LL SHARE THEM WITH YOU. MAYBE EVEN A COUPLE AT A TIME.
WHATEVER YOU WANT, SKINNY PAULIE'S YOUR MAN.
PAULIE'S A PLAYER. SMALL TIME, BUT A PLAYER.
OF COURSE, SMALL TIME IS A RELATIVE TWNG.
SMALL TIME IS MOTHERS PACKING PAULIE'S JUNK INTO THEIR NOSES WHILE THEIR KIDS BAWL BECAUSE THEIR BELLIES ARE EMPTY.
SMALL TIME IS PAULIE'S GOONS AT THE BUS STATION HARVESTING FRESH-FACED CHEERLEADERS FROM KANSAS AND TURNING THEM INTO WALKING VENDING MACHINES WITH STILETTO HEELS AND TOO MUCH MAKEUP.
SMALL TIME IS ENOUGH.

PAULIE LIVES HERE.
PAULIE HAS A NICE HOUSE.
PAULIE HAS A SWIMMING POOL...
...AND A SECURITY SYSTEM.
AND PAULIE HAS A NUMBER OF VERY LARGE FRIENDS.
PAULIE HARDLY EVER LEAVES HIS NICE HOUSE. WHEN HE DOES HE BRINGS ALONG SOME OF HIS VERY LARGE FRIENDS.
PAULIE IS A VERY HARD MAN TO SEE.

THIS IS ONE OF PAULIE'S VERY LARGE FRIENDS.
NO VISITORS, BLOW.
METER MAN. GOTTA READ THE METER.

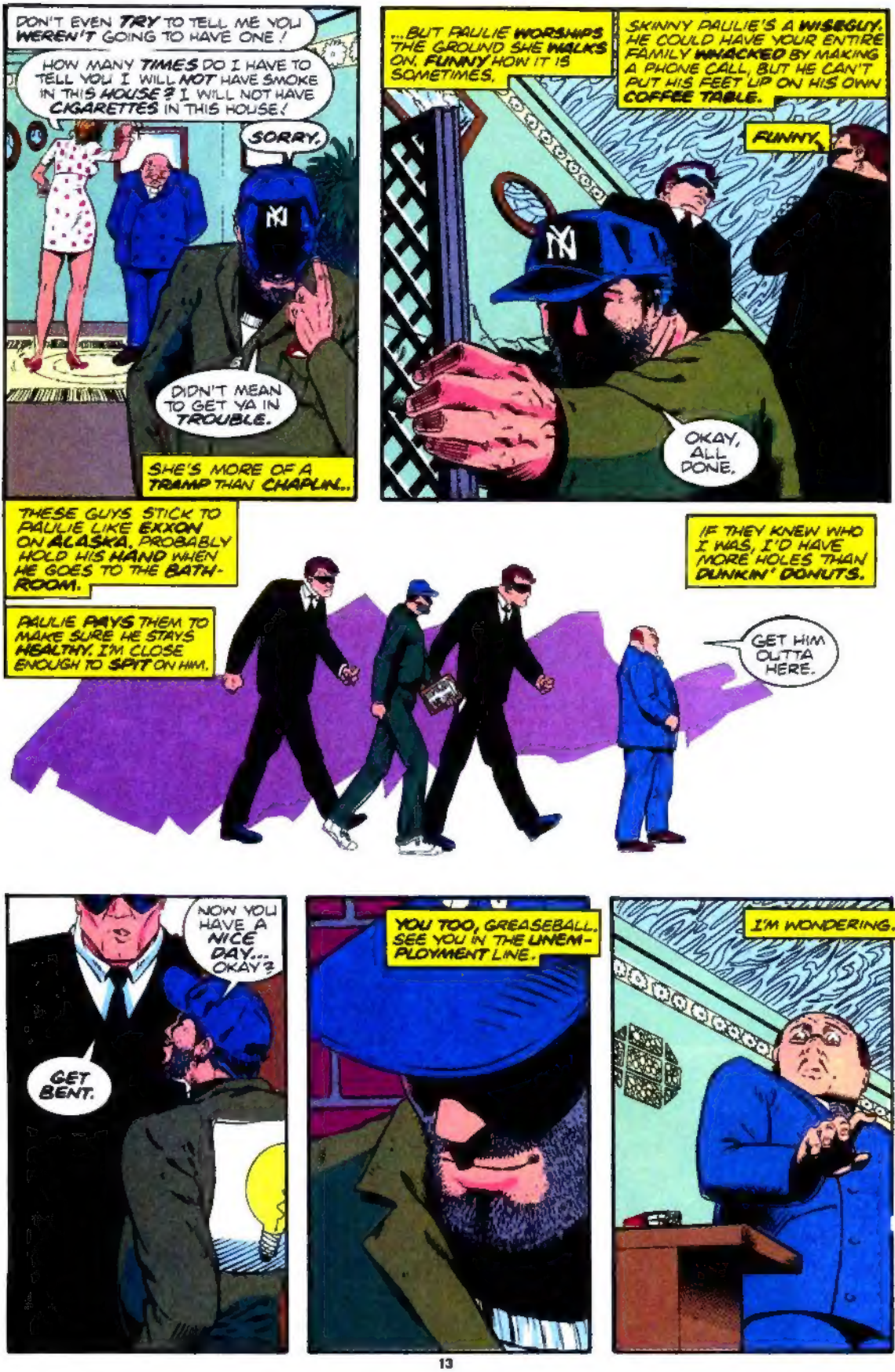
PAULIE'S FRIENDS WERE SLABS OF MEAT BEFORE THEY STARTED POPPING STEROIDS LIKE CRACKERJACKS.
FRISK HIM, JOEY.
CLEAN-- HE'S JUST A JERK!
UH... YEAH, OKAY.
NOW THEY'RE MEAN SLABS OF MEAT. STUPID, TOO.

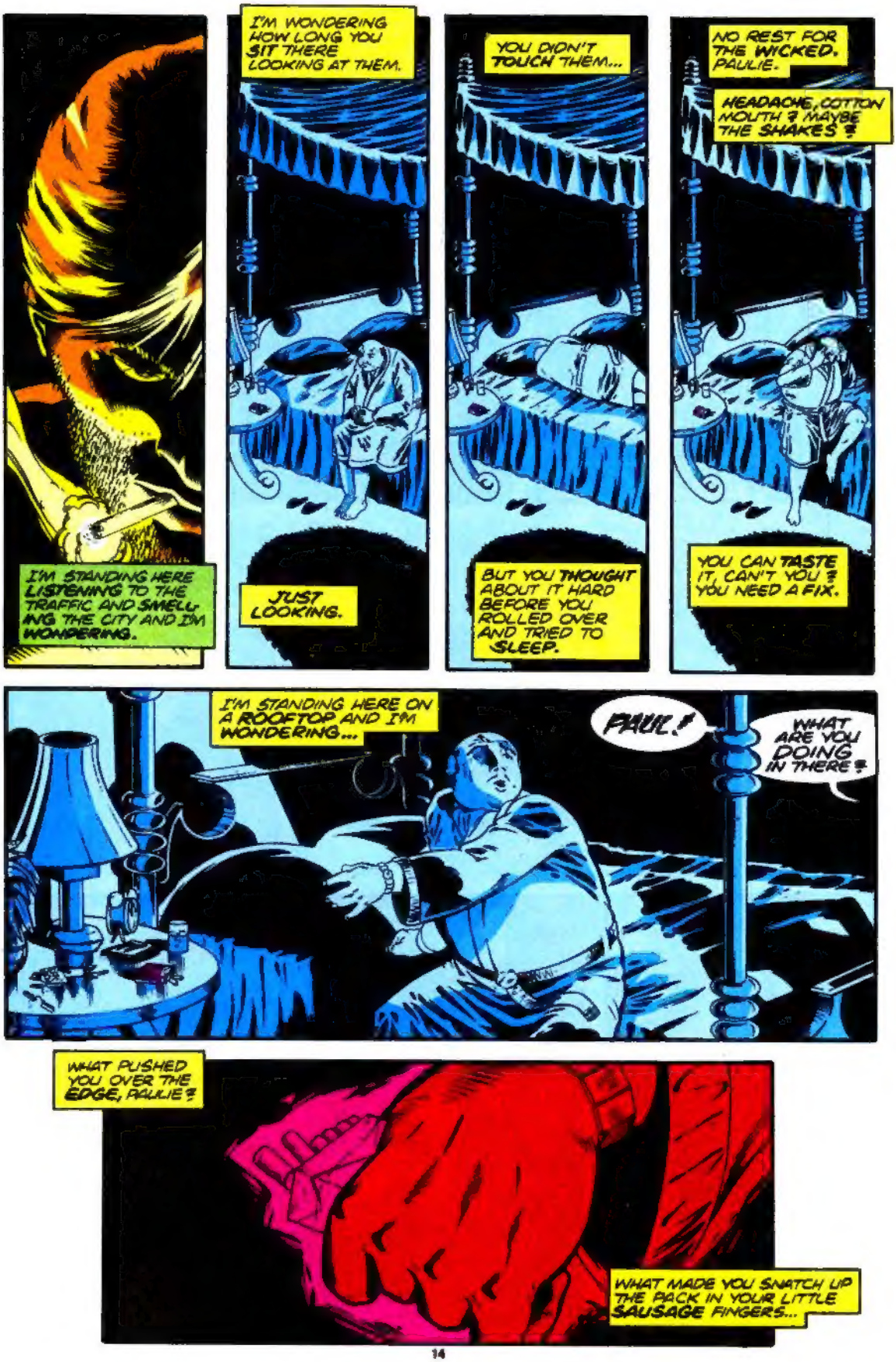

SKINNY PAULIE.
GOOD ONE.
HEY. HOW YA DOIN'? METER MAN-- GOTTA READ THE METER.
MM-HM.
NICE PLACE. MOST OF THE TIME I'M IN SOME SLUM, Y'KNOW? DOPE-ADDICT MOTHERS, SCREAMING KIDS, REAL HORROR SHOW.
NICE TO BE IN A NICE PLACE.

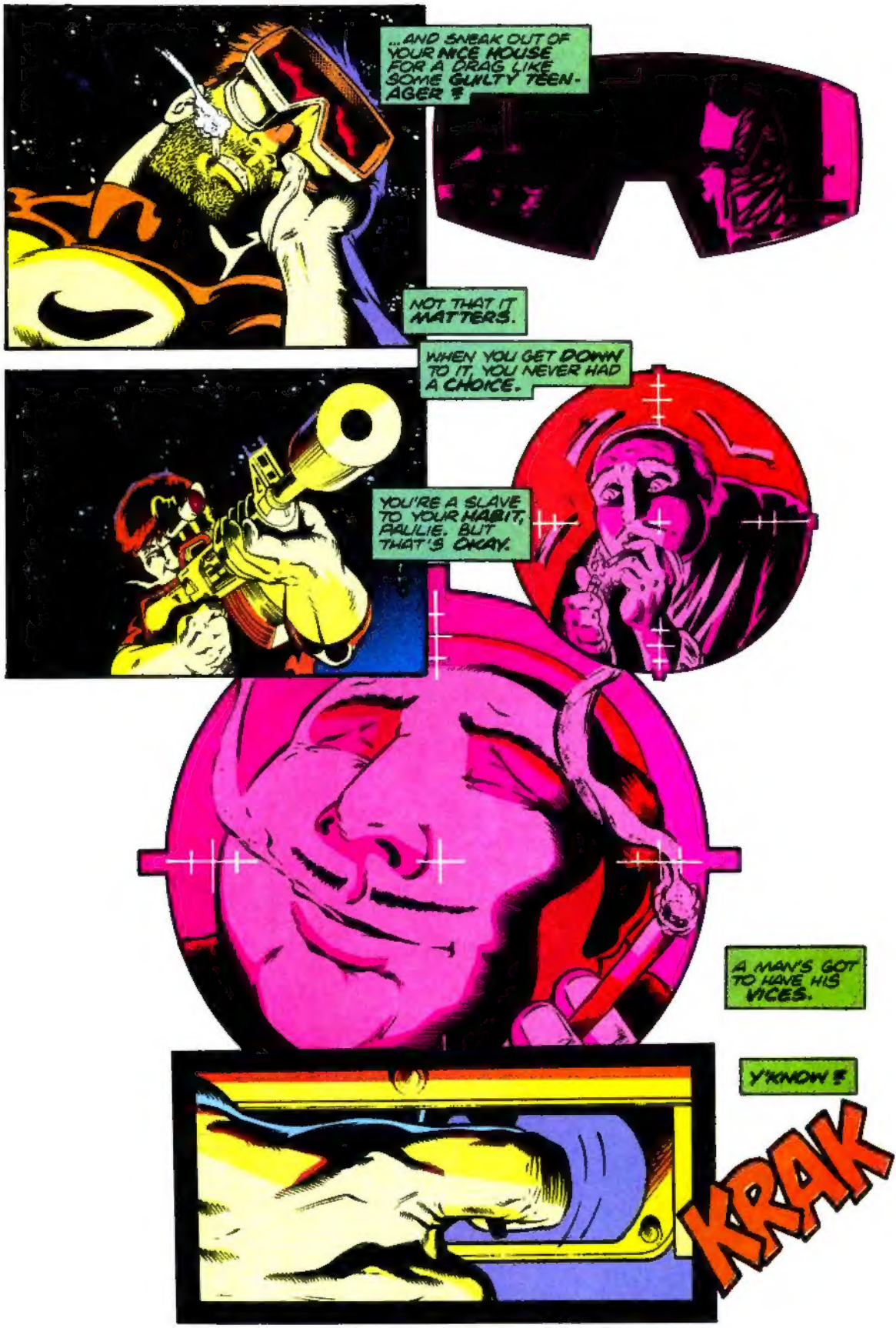

DON'T MIND IF I SMOKE, DO YA? MAN'S GOTTA HAVE HIS VICES, Y'KNOW?
MM. SUPPOSE SO.

HEY, UH, CAN I OFFER YA ONE?
WELL, I.. UH, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO...
YEAH. GIMME ONE.

PAUL!
OOPS. LADY OF THE HOUSE.


DON'T EVEN TRY TO TELL ME YOU WEREN'T GOING TO HAVE ONE!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU I WILL NOT HAVE SMOKE IN THIS HOUSE? I WILL NOT HAVE CIGARETTES IN THIS HOUSE!
SORRY.
DIDN'T MEAN TO GET YA IN TROUBLE.
SHE'S MORE OF A TRAMP THAN CHAPLIN...
...BUT PAULIE WORSHIPS THE GROUND SHE WALKS ON. FUNNY HOW IT IS SOMETIMES.
SKINNY PAULIE'S A WISEGUY. HE COULD HAVE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WHACKED BY MAKING A PHONE CALL, BUT HE CAN'T PUT HIS FEET UP ON HIS OWN COFFEE TABLE.
FUNNY.
OKAY, ALL DONE.
THESE GUYS STICK TO PAULIE LIKE EXXON ON ALASKA. PROBABLY HOLD HIS HAND WHEN HE GOES TO THE BATHROOM.
IF THEY KNEW WHO I WAS, I'D HAVE MORE HOLES THAN DUNKIN' DONUTS.
PAULIE PAYS THEM TO MAKE SURE HE STAYS HEALTHY. I'M CLOSE ENOUGH TO SPIT ON HIM.
GET HIM OUTTA HERE.
NOW YOU HAVE A NICE DAY... OKAY?
GET BENT.
YOU TOO, GREASEBALL. SEE YOU IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE.
I'M WONDERING.


I'M STANDING HERE LISTENING TO THE TRAFFIC AND SMELLING THE CITY AND I'M WONDERING.
I'M WONDERING HOW LONG YOU SIT THERE LOOKING AT THEM.
JUST LOOKING.
YOU DIDN'T TOUCH THEM....
BUT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT HARD BEFORE YOU ROLLED OVER AND TRIED TO SLEEP.
NO REST FOR THE WICKED, PAULIE.
HEADACHE, COTTON MOUTH? MAYBE THE SHAKES?
YOU CAN TASTE IT, CAN'T YOU? YOU NEED A FIX.
I'M STANDING HERE ON A ROOFTOP AND I'M WONDERING...
PAUL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?
WHAT PUSHED YOU OVER THE EDGE, PAULIE?
WHAT MADE YOU SNATCH UP THE PACK IN YOUR LITTLE SAUSAGE FINGERS...


...AND SNEAK OUT OF YOUR NICE HOUSE FOR A DRAG LIKE SOME GUILTY TEEN-AGER?
NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, YOU NEVER HAD A CHOICE.
YOU'RE A SLAVE TO YOUR HABIT, PAULIE. BUT THAT'S OKAY.
A MAN'S GOT TO HAVE HIS VICES.
Y'KNOW?
KRAK

OH...
GLAD I KICKED THESE THINGS.
THEY'LL KILL YOU.
END